

THE BOOK CLUB OF CALIFORNIA

Quarterly

News-Letter

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Volume VII

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THE SPECTATOR

BY THE time this number of the News-Letter reaches members they will already have received an announcement of the Club's forthcoming book on *The Spectator*. By present plans the book itself will be ready about June 25.

At this writing it is of course impossible to state how long this publication will remain in print. Fortunately, the edition—455 copies—is larger than that of any other recent Club publication. On the other hand it promises to be in unusual demand. The preliminary announcement in the March quarterly—which

described the material only in a general way and did not state the price—resulted in orders from more than fifty members. That may be taken as an indication that the book will not stay on the shelves indefinitely.

To be on the safe side, the Club is limiting orders to one copy each. Members are, however, offered the opportunity to subscribe for additional copies, with the understanding that these will be supplied after the initial one-copy orders have been filled. By this plan members who order with reasonable promptness will be sure of receiving one copy each. Late comers and those who wish additional copies will of course be supplied as long as books are available.

One other point: A number of requests have been received from members for copies containing particular issues of *The Spectator*. The Club regrets that it will be impossible to comply with these, for the following reasons: Its incomplete file of *The Spectator* contains only 455 issues out of more than 650 published—and the 455 issues are not consecutive. Moreover, each copy of the paper has been bound in a different copy of the book, and to find if the file contains a particular issue would involve a search through the entire 455 books—a sizable task! However, it may be stated definitely that all issues of *The Spectator* are in excellent condition and that all are equally interesting typographically. If Addison and Steele wrote interestingly one day and less so on another that is only to be expected. Journalists are notoriously uneven in their output and we can only hope that the issue you receive will represent them at their best.

The book sells for \$6.00. The text is written by Eric Partridge. The Grabhorn Press did the printing,

and each copy contains an authentic original issue of *The Spectator*.



THE MINER'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

Editor's Note: Among the productions of early-day California printers none seems more interesting today than the letter sheets—those curious pieces of illustrated writing paper (forerunners of the modern picture postcard) which proved a boon to the letter-writers of the Gold Rush. Miners sent them East by the thousands, writing their messages on the lower half, or on back, and trusting to the pictures and text to convey, not too seriously, the spirit of the time and place. Following is an account of the origin of one of the most popular of the letter sheets, "The Miner's Ten Commandments." It is condensed from an article on "Pioneer Illustration in California," by Francis E. Sheldon, which appeared in *The Overland Monthly* for April, 1888.

DURING THE Gold Rush there began to be published in California a series of small illustrated sheets, which while insignificant in themselves are important because they finally led to the publication of *Hutchings' California Magazine*, the best pictorial periodical ever published on the Coast.

The craving of the miners for something local to send home was not to be satisfied with newspaper cuts. To meet this demand, the Noisy Carriers' Book Company had bought up some of the best pictures that were not too large, and began printing them on letter sheets with space for letters below. These at once became popular, and various publishers were soon rivaling each other getting out new designs.

In 1853 a strong effort was made in certain quarters to turn Sunday, the then principal business day in the mines, into a closer semblance of the peaceful Eastern



No. I.



No. II.



No. III.



No. IV.

THE MINERS' TEN COMMANDMENTS.

A man spoke these words, and said: I am a miner, who wandered from a strange land, and "saw the elephant." And behold I saw him, and saw him, that from the key of his trunk to the end of his tail, his whole body has passed before me; and I followed him until his huge feet stood still before a claspboard shanty; then with his trunk extended, he pointed to a candle-cast stuck upon a shingle, as though he would say Read, and I read the MINERS' TEN COMMANDMENTS.

I. Thou shalt have no other claim than one.

II. Thou shalt not make unto thyself any false claim, nor any likeness to a mean man, by jumping one; whatever thou findest on the top above or on the rock below, or in a crevice underneath the rock, nor will I visit the miners around to layte them on my side; and when they decide against thee, thou shalt take thy pick and thy pan, thy shovel and thy blankets, with all that thou hast, and "go prospecting" to seek good diggings; but thou shalt find none. Then, when thou hast returned, in sorrow shalt thou find that thine old claim is worked out, and yet no pile made to hide in the ground, or in an old box beneath thy bunk or in backlogs or bolts undermost thy cabin; but hast paid all that was in thy purse, and saved thy pick, and thy boots and thy garments, so that there is nothing good about them but the pick, and thy patience is lashed unto thy garments, and at last thou shalt hire thy body out to make thy honest and save thy bacon.

III. Thou shalt not go prospecting before thy claim gives out. Neither shalt thou take thy money, nor thy gold dust, nor thy good name, to the gaming table in vain; for month, twenty-one, roulette, fern, lasso, and poker, will prove to thee that the more thou puttest down the less thou shalt take up; and when thou thinkest of thy wife and children, thou shalt not hold thyself guiltless—but in shame.

IV. Thou shalt not remember what thy friends do at home on the Sabbath day, lest the remembrance may not compare favorably with what thou dost here.—Six days thou mayest dig or pick all that thy body can stand under; but the other day is Sunday; yet thou wastest all thy dirty shirts, doreest all thy stockings, top thy boots, mend thy clothing, chop thy whole week's drowest, make up and bake thy bread, and boil thy pork and beans, that thou wast not when thou returnedst from thy long-ton weary. For in six days' labor only thou canst not work enough to wear out thy body in two years; but if thou workest hard on Sunday also, thou canst do it in six months; and thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, thy male friend and thy female friend, thy morals and thy conscience, be none the better for it; but reproach thee, shouldst thou ever return with thy worn-out body to thy mother's breast;

and thou shalt not strive to justify thyself, because the trader and the blacksmith, the carpenter and the merchant, the tailor, Jew, and blacksmith, defy God and civilization, by keeping not the Sabbath day, nor with for a day of rest, such as memory, youth and bones, made hallowed.

V. Thou shalt not think more of all thy gold, and how thou shalt make it faster, than how thou wilt enjoy it, after thou hast ridden night and day over thy good old parents' precepts and examples, that thou hast been talking to reproach and sting thee, when thou art left alone in the land where thy father's blessing and thy mother's love hath sent thee.

VI. Thou shalt not kill thy body by working in the rain, even though thou shalt make much to buy food and attendance with. Neither shalt thou kill thy neighbor's body in a fight for "keeping cool," thou canst save his life and destroy thyself by getting "right," nor "dew," nor "high," nor "corral," nor "half-measure," nor "lure about in the wind," by drinking smoothly down—"bummy slings," "gin cocktails," "whisky punches," "rum-toddies," nor "egg nog." Neither shalt thou suck "mint-juleps," nor "sherry-cobbler," through a straw, nor gurgle from a bottle the "raw material," nor "take it weak" from a decanter; for, while thou art swallowing down thy purse, and thy coat from off thy back, thou art burning the coat from off thy stomach; and, if thou coudest see the bones and hide, and gold dust, and home comforts already trying thee—"a huge pile"—thou shouldst feel a choking in thy throat; and when to that thou addest thy awkward walkings and blooming talkings, of lodgings in the gutter, of broken and lean, of prospect-holes half full of water, and of shafts and ditches, from which thou hast emerged like a drowning rat, thou wilt feel disgusted with thyself, and inquire, "Is thy servant a dog that he doeth these things?" verily I will say, Farewell, old bottle, I will keep thy gurgling lips no more. And thou, elings, cocktails, punches, smashes, cobbler, nogs, toddies, margarines, and juleps, forever farewell. Thy remembrance shames me; henceforth, "I cut thy acquaintance," and headaches, tremblings, heart burnings, blue devils, and all the unsightly catalogue of ills that follow thy trash. Thy wife's smiles and my children's merry-hearted laugh, shall shame and reward me for having the mighty greatness and courage to say NO. I wish thee an angelic farewell.

VII. Thou shalt not grow discouraged, nor think of going home before thou hast made thy "pile," because thou hast not "struck a lode," nor found a "rich crevice," nor smelt a hole upon a "pocket," but in going home thou shalt leave four dollars a day, and go to work, abandoned, at fifty cents, and serve thee right; for thou knowest by saying here, thou mightst strike a lode and fifty dollars a day, and keep thy manly self-respect,

and then go home with enough to make thyself and others happy.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal a pick, or a shovel, or a pan from thy fellow miner; nor take away his tools without his leave; nor borrow them he cannot spare; nor return them broken, nor trouble him to look them back again, nor talk with him while his water rest is running on, nor remove his stake to enlarge thy claim, nor undermine his back in following a lead, nor pan out gold from his "riffle box," nor wash the "tailings" from his sluice's mouth. Neither shalt thou pick out specimens from the company's pan to put them in thy mouth, or in the pocket; nor cheat thy partner of his share; nor steal from thy color-mate his gold dust, to add to thine, for he will be sure to discover what thou hast done, and will straightway call his fellow miners to gether, and if the law hinder them not, they will hang thee, or give thee fifty lashes, or shave thy head and bread thee, like a home-bird, with "it upon thy chest, to be known and read of all men, Californians in particular.

IX. Thou shalt not tell any false tales about "good diggings in the mountains," to thy neighbor, that thou mayest bring a friend who hath money, and provision, and tools and blankets, he cannot sell, lest in deceiving thy neighbor, when he returneth through the snow, with naught save his rifle, he promote thee with the contents thereof, and like a dog, thou shalt fall down and die.

X. Thou shalt not commit unsuitable meanness, nor covet "right blessings," nor forget absent maidens; nor neglect thy "right love" that thou shalt consider how faithfully and patiently she awaits thy return; yes, and coveteth each spittle that thou sendest with kisses of kindly welcome—until she hath thyself. Neither shalt thou covet thy neighbor's wife, nor trifle with the affections of his daughter; yes, if thy heart be free, and thou dost love and covet each other, thou shalt "pop the question" like a man, lest another, more worthy than thou art, should step in before thee, and thou love her in vain, and in the language of thy heart's disappointment, thou shalt quote the language of the great, and say, "such is life," and thy future be the fate of a poor, lonely, despised and comfortless bachelor.

XI. A new Commandment give I unto thee—that thou hast a wife and little ones, that thou lovest dearer than thy life—that thou keep them continually before thee, to cheer and give thee onward will thou canst not. "I have enough—God bless them—I will return," when thou art journeying towards the much loved home, with open arms shall they come forth to welcome thee, and falling upon thy neck with words of unutterable joy that thou art come; then in the fulness of thy love's gratitude, thou shalt kneel together before thy Heavenly Father, to thank Him for thy safe return. AMEN—So mote it be.

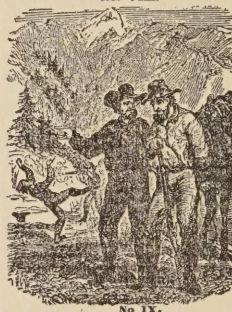
FORTY-NINE.



No. VII.



No. VIII.



No. IX.



No. X.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1864, by JAMES M. HITCHCOCK, in the Clerk's Office of the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Orders addressed, J. F. Larabee, 150 Sansome St., San Francisco.

THE MINERS' TEN COMMANDMENTS

Courtesy of The Society of California Pioneers

Sabbath. Feeling ran high in the matter and bitter things were said on each side.

At the height of this agitation J. M. Hutchings, then living in Placerville, sat down and wrote the now famous "Miner's Ten Commandments." After he had finished, his conscience gave him qualms lest its Biblical tone should seem impious to some, and he laid them away.

"Shortly after this," to use his own language, "the editor of the *Placer Times* came to me one day and said, 'John, I want you to get the paper out for me this week; I have to go below to attend to some property.'

"I didn't want to take it but he wouldn't let me off. When I got to thinking it over it struck me that this was a good time to publish the commandments. If they sold the paper, I'd get credit for it, and if they didn't, he wouldn't be blamed. So I printed them and waited with some anxiety to see what would happen.

"The paper hadn't been on the street five minutes when a man came in and said, 'John, I want five of those commandments to send home to my friends.' And before he was gone another came in, and in a little while the whole edition was sold out.

"When the editor came back he took a look at the books and said, 'John, I am going away again!' "

The demand for the "commandments" was so great that they were republished, anonymously as before. Later their piracy by a man in Nevada led Mr. Hutchings to acknowledge their authorship, and to take steps to preserve them in suitable form. He had a series of appropriate cuts made and issued a letter sheet containing the "commandments" with the illustrations grouped about the border.

Of these nearly a hundred thousand were sold within a year. The author reissued them several times—the last time in the late '80s, when they appeared in pamphlet form, without the illustrations.

"The Miner's Ten Commandments" are too long to quote entire, but the following (the fourth) will show their general style:

"Thou shalt not remember what thy friends do at home on the Sabbath day, lest the remembrance should not compare favorably with what thou doest here; for thou well knowest that on that day thou wastest all thy dirty clothes, darnest all thy stockings, patchest up thy nether garments, doth tap thy boots, chop thy whole week's firewood, make up and bake thy bread, and boil thy pork and beans, that thou wait not when at night thou returnest from thy labors weary. But alas! thou rememberest not that for six days thou mayest dig or pick or wash all that thy body can stand under, for which if thou art careful thou canst not wear out thy body in two years; but if thou workest hard on Sunday also thou canst do it in six months; and thou and thy wife, thy son and thy daughter, thy male friend and thy female friend, thy morals and thy conscience, be none the better for it; and thou shalt not strive to justify thyself because the trader and the blacksmith, the carpenter and the merchant, the tailor and cheap-john huckster, the gamblers and buccaneers, defy God, religion, and civilization by keeping not the Sabbath day such as memory, youth, and home made hallowed."

The popularity of this venture encouraged Hutchings to try others of the same nature. These were appropriately illustrated and sent out one after another under such titles as "Commandments to California Wives,"

"The Two Miners," "Across the Plains," and "The Miner's Creed." The accompanying text was sometimes in verse, but more commonly in prose.

It was the success of these flyers, coupled with a realization of the wide scope offered in this new country for such an undertaking, that led Mr. Hutchings to decide upon the publication of the magazine which was afterwards issued in his name.

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### SIX CALIFORNIA TALES

PART THREE of the 1939 keepsakes series, a short story by Henry Sienkiewicz, is now being completed and members should receive their copies before (or soon after) this number of the News-Letter reaches them. It has a number of points of unusual interest. The tale is laid in Anaheim, California in the late '80s; it concerns two performers in a small carnival troupe, and its author is the famous Polish novelist who wrote *Quo Vadis*. Details of Sienkiewicz's now almost forgotten stay in California (of which this story was one of the results) are related in Carey McWilliams' foreword to this edition. The pamphlet, which is being designed and printed by The Ward Ritchie Press, Los Angeles, makes a distinctly worth-while addition to the current series—of which the first two parts were "The Gentleman in the Barrel," by Chester Bailey Fernald, and R. H. Rhodes' "The Case of Summerfield."

The remaining three parts will follow in August, October and December respectively. Part Four will be designed and printed by The Grabhorn Press; particulars concerning the others will be announced.

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FRANKLIN, LOGAN AND VAN DOREN

A LITTLE more than two hundred years ago, in 1735, there was issued from the shop of a Philadelphia printer a pamphlet with a curious title: *Cato's Moral Distichs, Englished in Couplets*. The work probably attracted but slight attention when it first appeared; nonetheless it had a number of points of uncommon interest. For one thing it was among the earliest translations from the classics to be printed in America. For another, the man by whom it had been "Englished in couplets" was James Logan, one of the leading men of the colony and the agent for its proprietary family, the Penns. The text consists of a collection of proverbs in the form of two-line rhymed verses: quaintly phrased maxims pointing out the advantages of thrift, sobriety, forbearance, generosity and the other standard virtues.

In appearance, as in contents, *Moral Distichs* was above reproach. Examination of its pages reveals that they were set up and seen through the press by someone with skill and taste in the printer's art. This need cause no surprise, for the printer besides being a young man of intelligence was a close student of his craft. Before he had ventured to open a shop of his own he had undergone thorough training not only in Philadelphia but in his native Boston and, during the years 1724 to 1726, in two of the best-known shops in London.

Benjamin Franklin was only twenty-nine when *Moral Distichs* was issued from his "New Printing Office near the Market" in pre-Revolutionary Philadelphia, and the work therefore belongs to the early period of his career as printer-publisher. It preceded another and more celebrated Franklin pamphlet, *Cato Major*, (also "Eng-

lished" by James Logan) by nine years. Writers on American printing often refer to the latter as Franklin's most successful work from the standpoint of typography, but that may be because few of them have had an opportunity to examine *Moral Distichs*. For this 1735 pamphlet deserves to be called excessively rare. The known copies number hardly half a dozen. Of these, two (one incomplete) are in California. The Club contemplates the publication in the near future of a little book about this interesting curiosity of early American printing . . .

If the foregoing sounds familiar to any of our members that is easily explained. These paragraphs are reprinted from the September 1936 issue of the News-Letter. The statement that the Club planned to publish the book in the "near future" proved a bit optimistic. Nonetheless interest in the project has ever since remained keen, and during recent weeks steps have been taken that definitely assure its publication this fall. Moreover, it is now possible to give some added details. The book will contain a facsimile reproduction of the entire twenty-four page pamphlet. The facsimile will be made from the Huntington Library copy, one of six known copies. It will contain, too, a foreword dealing with Franklin, James Logan and *Moral Distichs*, written especially for this edition by Carl Van Doren, whose brilliant life of Franklin was recently awarded the Pulitzer Prize for biography.

Further information about this, the Club's next publication, will reach members in due course.



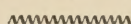
ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP

THE FOLLOWING names have been added to the membership roll since March 1:

<i>Member</i>		<i>Sponsor</i>
Merritt H. Adamson	Los Angeles, Cal.	Oscar Lewis
Mrs. Ernest A. Bryant	San Marino, Cal.	Oscar Lewis
Mrs. Max M. Cohn	San Francisco, Cal.	Oscar Lewis
Alfred A. Cook	New York, N. Y.	Albert M. Bender
Edward M. Cope	Redlands, Cal.	Oscar Lewis
Miss Mary MacRae Corbus	Los Gatos, Cal.	Edgar M. Kahn
A. M. Davis	New York, N. Y.	Edgar Waite
Miss Christian M. Dick	Los Angeles, Cal.	Oscar Lewis
Mrs. Mayer Davis	Philadelphia, Pa.	Albert M. Bender
Mort Donoghue	Los Angeles, Cal.	Edgar Waite
Roger Gaucheron	San Francisco, Cal.	Albert M. Bender
Charles M. Goodman	San Francisco, Cal.	Albert M. Bender
David Heggie	San Francisco, Cal.	F. F. Thomas, Jr.
W. B. Jefferson	San Francisco, Cal.	John Howell
J. H. Jones	El Cerrito, Cal.	Oscar Lewis
Dr. Henry A. R. Kreutzmann	San Francisco, Cal.	Harold Haker
Mrs. David Lelewer	Highland Park, Ill.	Edgar M. Kahn
Weyert Moor	Los Angeles, Cal.	Oscar Lewis
Mrs. D. C. Mosby	San Francisco, Cal.	Miss M. Gertrude Roddy
Miss Eleanor McClatchy	Sacramento, Cal.	Miss Caroline Wenzel
Rollin L. McNitt	Los Angeles, Cal.	Oscar Lewis
Robert Montgomery	Los Angeles, Cal.	M. S. Slocum
Mrs. Elizabeth Doyle Parker	San Francisco, Cal.	Edgar M. Kahn
Ansley K. Salz	San Francisco, Cal.	Albert M. Bender
William P. Sidley	Chicago, Ill.	Alfred Sutro
Miss Mary Louise Tate	Los Angeles, Cal.	Weyert Moor
Alfred E. Wolff	San Francisco, Cal.	Albert M. Bender
J. R. Woodward	Fresno, Cal.	Oscar Lewis
Alec Yuill-Thornton	San Mateo, Cal.	Wilder Bentley

A folder outlining the Club's aims and activities, and a membership application card, are enclosed with this number of the News-Letter. Any member who feels inclined to pass these on to some book-collecting friend is hereby authorized—nay, urged—to do so. The membership roll (limited to six hundred) is now well over 90% full. With a varied and interesting program scheduled for the coming months, and with the number

of vacancies growing steadily fewer, this seems a particularly appropriate time to bring an application card to the attention of some hesitating fellow-collector.



NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

by ALBERT M. BENDER, Chairman, Publication Committee

THE CLUB'S first 1939 publication will be ready this month: an original issue of *The Spectator*, with Eric Partridge's informative text on Addison and Steele and their famous paper. It should be in brisk demand. The book has the qualities necessary in a really desirable collectors' item: an important subject interestingly presented, distinguished typography, a reasonable price (\$6.00)—and a copy of one of the most celebrated of all literary periodicals. It is to be hoped that the number printed—455—will be enough to supply every member who wants a copy. But the membership is now well over 575, and orders should not be too long delayed.

Following *The Spectator* will come the Club's facsimile reproduction of *Cato's Moral Distichs*, the rare pamphlet printed by Benjamin Franklin in 1735—with an introduction by Carl Van Doren, Franklin's latest (and best) biographer. Information about this desirable item is given in this number of the News-Letter. The book itself will be ready in early fall.

At the beginning of 1939 the Club had on hand unsold copies of seventeen of its publications. In February the prices of all seventeen were drastically reduced and the members were invited to participate in a bargain sale. A great many of them accepted. By March first five of the titles had been sold out. Since then there

has been a further reduction both in the number of titles and in the supply of copies of those remaining. The depleted list follows. Both old and new prices are given and those titles of which less than twenty-five copies remain are indicated by an asterisk. The sale will continue (on a first-come-first-served basis) until the last copy is sold.

<i>Title and Author</i>	<i>Former Price</i>	<i>Present Price</i>
*ODES AND SONNETS by Clark Ashton Smith. Printer: Taylor & Taylor	\$ 3.00	\$1.00
LILITH: A Dramatic Poem by George Sterling. Printer: Taylor & Taylor	6.00	2.00
CONTINENT'S END: An Anthology of Contemporary California Poets. Printer: John Henry Nash . . .	15.00	5.00
*AN INVOCATION by Ambrose Bierce. Printer: John Henry Nash	8.00	2.67
THE FINAL STANZA by Lewis Browne. Printer: Johnck & Seeger	3.50	1.17
THE PERSISTENCE OF POETRY by Witter Bynner. Printer: The Windsor Press	6.00	2.00
*A BRIEF AND ACCURATE TREATISE OF TOBACCO by To. Venner. Printer: The Windsor Press	6.00	2.00
SIR WALTER SCOTT by John Buchan & Wm. C. Van Antwerp. Printer: Johnck & Seeger . . .	3.00	1.00
BIERCE AND THE POE HOAX by Carroll D. Hall. Printer: The Windsor Press	3.00	1.00
*A PRINTER'S GARLAND: A Typographic Mis- cellany by Cecil & James Johnson. Printer: The Windsor Press	2.75	.92